

What is claimed is:

1. A method of selecting a gateway for interworking between a first and second
5 network supporting different network protocols, said method comprising the steps of:
 querying a unified location management device having location information stored therein
 for users of said different network protocols;
 relaying mobile user location related information from said unified location manager
 regarding a user of said one of said first and second network; and
10 selecting said gateway based on said location information provided.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of selecting is optimized by providing a
selection that minimizes triangle routing, minimizes a PSTN call leg and minimizes an Internet call
leg.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein selection of said gateway is optimized by selecting
a gateway that minimizes a circuit switched portion of a call.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said location related information is used to assign a
20 location dependent routable temporary telephone number for use in said gateway selection.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein for an internet telephony call to a mobile user, said
unified location manager operates as an inbound proxy for a given domain.
- 25 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said mobile location information can correspond to
an internet telephony user.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said location related information provides
assignment of a GSM/UMTS temporary phone number.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said unified location manager is operable as a home location register for cellular networks and as a user registration and address resolution device for internet telephony networks.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said universal location manager uses a current Care-of-Address for providing said location related information for a mobile Internet telephony user.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein one of said first and second networks is circuit switched network and one of said first and second networks is an internet telephony network.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of network protocols comprises at least two of ANSI-41, GSM MAP, SIP, H.323.

12. A method used for selecting a gateway for a call from a first network to a mobile user in a second network, said first and second network supporting different network protocols, said method comprising the steps of:

querying a unified location management device having location information for multiple mobile network technologies stored therein; and

providing location related information for said mobile user in said second network for use by said first network in selection of said gateway.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said selecting is optimized by providing a selection that minimizes triangle routing, minimizes a PSTN call leg and minimizes an Internet call leg.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein selection of said gateway is optimized by selecting a gateway that minimizes a circuit switched portion of a call.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein said location related information is used to assign a location dependent routable temporary telephone number for use in said gateway selection.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein for an internet telephony call to a mobile user, said unified location manager operates as an inbound proxy for a given domain.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein said mobile location information can correspond to an internet telephony user.

18. The method of claim 12, wherein said unified location manager is operable as a home location register for cellular networks and as a user registration and address resolution device for internet telephony networks.

19. The method of claim 12, wherein said universal location manager uses a current Care-of-Address for providing said location related information for a mobile Internet telephony user.

20. The method of claim 12, wherein one of said first and second networks is circuit switched network and one of said first and second networks is an internet telephony network.

21. An apparatus for enabling optimized gateway selection for interworking between a first and second network, said apparatus comprising

- a data server for storing location and service profile data for multiple differing network technologies;
- at least two network protocol gateways for translating incoming location information requests into a protocol independent format;
- a processor for interfacing between said data server and said protocol gateways, wherein mobile user location related information is able to be provided by said apparatus for use in selection of said gateway.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said selection is optimized by providing a selection that minimizes triangle routing, minimizes a PSTN call leg and minimizes an Internet call leg.

23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein selection of said gateway is optimized by selecting a gateway that minimizes a circuit switched portion of a call.

5 24. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said location related information is used to assign a location dependent routable temporary telephone number for use in said gateway selection.

25. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein for an internet telephony call to a mobile user, said unified location manager operates as an inbound proxy for a given domain.

10 26. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said mobile location information can correspond to an internet telephony user.

15 27. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said unified location manager is operable as a home location register for cellular networks and as a user registration and address resolution device for internet telephony networks.

20 28. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said universal location manager uses a current Care-of-Address for providing said location related information for a mobile Internet telephony user.

29. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein one of said first and second networks is circuit switched network and one of said first and second networks is an internet telephony network.

25 30. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the plurality of network protocols comprises at least two of ANSI-41, GSM MAP, SIP, H.323.